

Issues & Legislation Impacting Calvert County Seniors

Update on Calvert County Census 2020 final self-response rate indicates over 75% residents responded, far exceeding our 2010 self-response count. Kudos to our Census representatives, Complete Count Committee members, Commissioners on Aging, and all businesses, nonprofits and Calvert government colleagues for reaching out to our networks to encourage self-responses. By December, after the total enumerator count is tallied, we will know our final County data.

We have many County Senior volunteer advocates in AARP, the National Active and Retired Federal Employees (NARFE) Association and United Seniors of Maryland (USM), proposing legislation to our lawmakers for the 2021 General Assembly, that impacts our county's Seniors.

- AARP is collaborating with the Alzheimer's Association to recommend Long-Term Care reforms, where quality care is a priority;
- AARP is urging the Maryland Department of Health to apply for additional funds for Home and Community-based Services, and with USM for Nursing Homes and Assisted Living facilities' reforms;

AARP and NARFE are Advocating for:

- Infrastructure funding to enable Seniors to negotiate roads safely;
- Expansion of Broadband, to mitigate isolation and Senior health challenges, by providing more affordable, reliable internet access supporting Telehealth, Telemedicine, civic engagement, entertainment, on-line learning and much more;
- Lowering Prescription Drug Prices by supporting a permanent funding mechanism for the Prescription Drug Affordability Board, through fee assessment on pharmaceutical corporations' benefits, pharmacy managers, insurers, and related entities;

NARFE is Advocating for:

- Keeping more Seniors in Maryland, by increasing the current Homeowners Tax Credit Program; and
- Providing Tax Relief for Maryland middle-class taxpayers, by including our right to itemize deductions, even if we are not itemizing on our Federal Tax Returns.

For further information, and to volunteer to advocate on any of these issues, please contact Commissioners on Aging, Dr. Charles Harrell and Dr. Sudha Haley through the Office on Aging.

--Dr. Sudha Haley, PH.D., Commission on Aging